

## **Automotive History Timeline**

Grade Level: Fourth

Time: about 3 class periods

### Social Studies Objectives:

I.1.LE.2 Construct a timeline of major events related to Michigan.

I.2.LE.3 Recount the lives and character of individuals in Michigan history.

V.1.LE.1 Assemble state and national information through various media.

### Background:

There are so many "hands-on" activities that I have done with my students related to the auto industry. This activity is a good way to look at the different people, including Henry Ford, that effected the auto industry in Michigan.

### Procedure:

1. Ask students who invented the automobile. Maybe show them a picture of a Model T or Henry Ford.
2. Have students read the article, "Gentlemen, Start Your Engines." The article is on pages 4-6,8, and 10 of the Spring 2002 issue of Michigan History for Kids Magazine. You can find the article online at [www.michiganhistorymag.com/kids/](http://www.michiganhistorymag.com/kids/). Click on download MHK.

Find the Auto issue. It's free! You can also view the teacher supplement which has comprehension questions and other cool activities.

3. As you are reading, have the kids write down important dates (months, year) when events happened. Do not have them try to put the events in order. That will come later. Or, you could use page 3 of the teacher supplement to record dates. It's tricky, but kind of like a scavenger hunt.
4. Next, have the kids use Timeliner or a similar program to create a timeline (in order) of these events. We did this activity in our computer lab. If you don't have computer access, you could have them use adding machine tape to make the timeline themselves. I would suggest small groups for this.
5. Afterwards, analyze and discuss the events. Talk about how certain events happened when they did in history. Discuss the impact on Michigan's economy. You could have the kids use their timeline to answer a short quiz or essay question for assessment.

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